

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

- 1.(Currently Amended) A structure having a fire resistance rated, area separation support wall, said structure comprising:
  - (a) a first multilevel building unit;
  - (b) a second multilevel building unit; and
  - (c) an area separation wall rated for two hours fire resistance according to Underwriter Laboratories, Inc. Test ANSI/UL 263, said area separation wall having only outer membranes wherein each outer membrane is a single sheet of fire resistant wallboard and including a cellulosic thermal insulation barrier between said outer membranes; said area separation wall further includes a tying structure constructed of 2X8 wood having [[a]] an overlaid double top plate assembly for connecting said fire resistance rated, area separation wall to said first unit and said second unit wherein one of the top plates is attached to the top edge of said area separation wall.
- 2.(Previously Amended) The structure according to Claim 1, wherein said double top plate assembly includes a pair of double top plates.
- 3.(Previously Amended) The structure according to Claim 2, wherein said tying structure includes a bottom plate attached to the bottom edge of said fire resistance rated, area separation wall.
- 4.(Previously Cancelled)
- 5.(Previously Amended) The structure according to Claim 3, wherein one of said double top plates and said bottom plate are less than about 10 feet apart.

6.(Original) The structure according to Claim 1, wherein said first building unit is an occupiable space.

7.(Original) The structure according to Claim 6, wherein said occupiable space is residential.

8.(Original) The structure according to Claim 7, wherein said residential occupiable space is a town home.

9.(Original) The structure according to Claim 1, wherein said second building unit is an occupiable space.

10.(Original) The structure according to Claim 9, wherein said occupiable space is residential.

11.(Original) The structure according to Claim 10, wherein said residential occupiable space is a town home.

12.(Currently Amended) A two-hour fire resistance rated, area separation support wall for a multilevel structure, said area separation wall comprising:

- (a) an interior support structure constructed of 2X8 wood;
- (b) only an outer membrane on each side of said interior support structure wherein each outer membrane is a single sheet of fire resistant wallboard; and
- (c) a substantially cellulosic thermal insulation barrier between said outer membranes; said area separation wall rated for two hours fire resistance according to Underwriter Laboratories, Inc. Test ANSI/UL 263, said area separation wall having a maximum height of 10 feet, said area separation wall further including a tying structure having [[a]] an overlaid double top plate assembly for connecting said fire resistance rated, area separation wall to said first unit and said second unit wherein one of the top plates is attached to the top edge of said area separation wall.

13.(Original) The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein said interior support structure includes at least two structurally independent interior support members.

14.(Original) The area separation wall according to Claim 13, wherein said structurally independent interior support members include a plurality of vertical members.

15.(Original) The area separation wall according to Claim 14, wherein said plurality of vertical members are spaced apart.

16.(Original) The area separation wall according to Claim 15, wherein said plurality of vertical members are spaced apart no more than about 16 inches.

17.(Original) The area separation wall according to Claim 14, wherein said plurality of vertical members further include cross bracing at about the mid height of said plurality of vertical members.

18.(Original) The area separation wall according to Claim 13, further including a physical gap between said structurally independent interior support members.

19. (Previously Cancelled).

20.(Previously Amended) The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein said fire resistant wallboard is a gypsum wallboard (GWB).

21.(Previously Cancelled).

22.(Previously Cancelled).

23.(Previously Cancelled).

24.(Previously Cancelled).

25.(Original) The area separation wall according to Claim 12, wherein said substantially organic thermal insulation barrier is an acoustically non-conductive material.

26.(Currently Amended) A structure having a fire resistance rated, area separation support wall, said structure comprising:

- (a) a first multilevel building unit;
- (b) a second multilevel building unit; **and**
- (c) [[an]] **a first** area separation wall rated for two hours fire resistance according to Underwriter Laboratories, Inc. Test ANSI/UL 263 having only outer membranes, **said first** area separation wall including: (i) an interior support structure constructed of **2X8** wood; (ii) only an outer membrane on each side of said interior support structure wherein each outer membrane is a single sheet of fire resistant wallboard; and (iii) a substantially cellulosic thermal insulation barrier between said outer membranes; **and**
- (d) a tying structure having **an overlaid** double top plate assembly for connecting said fire resistance rated, **first** area separation wall to said first unit and said second unit wherein one of the top plates is attached to the top edge of said area separation wall; **and**
- (e) **a second area separation wall constructed substantially identically to said first area separation wall, said second area separation wall connected to said first area separation wall.**

27.(Currently Amended) The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said tying structure includes a bottom plate attached to the bottom edge of said fire resistance rated, **first** area separation wall.

28.(Previously Cancelled)

29.(Previously Amended) The structure according to Claim 27, wherein one of said double top plates and said bottom plate are less than about 10 feet apart.

30.(Original) The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said first building unit is an occupiable space.

31.(Original) The structure according to Claim 30, wherein said occupiable space is residential.

32.(Original) The structure according to Claim 31, wherein said residential occupiable space is a town home.

33.(Original) The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said second building unit is an occupiable space.

34.(Original) The structure according to Claim 33, wherein said occupiable space is residential.

35.(Original) The structure according to Claim 34, wherein said residential occupiable space is a town home.

36.(Original) The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said interior support structure includes at least two structurally independent interior support members.

37.(Original) The structure according to Claim 36, wherein said structurally independent interior support members include a plurality of vertical members.

38.(Original) The structure according to Claim 37, wherein said plurality of vertical members are spaced apart.

39.(Original) The structure according to Claim 38, wherein said plurality of vertical members are spaced apart no more than about 16 inches.

40.(Original) The structure according to Claim 37, wherein said plurality of vertical members further include cross bracing at about the mid height of said plurality of vertical members.

41.(Original) The structure according to Claim 39, further including a physical gap between said structurally independent interior support members.

42.(Previously Cancelled).

43.(Previously Amended) The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said fire resistant wallboard is a gypsum wallboard (GWB).

44.(Previously Cancelled).

45.(Previously Cancelled).

46.(Previously Cancelled).

47.(Previously Cancelled).

48.(Original) The structure according to Claim 26, wherein said substantially organic thermal insulation barrier is an acoustically non-conductive material.